

2. In Government Order No. R. 3938-47—Rt. 176-19-4, dated the 18th September 1921, Government directed the exclusion of both honge leaves and seeds from the category of minor forest produce and their sale separately by the Forest Department. Revenue Commissioner having proposed the inclusion of honge leaves and seeds in *amarayi*, the proposal was accepted in the Government Order of 17th February 1922 and the disposal of honge leaves and seeds was transferred to the Revenue Department in February 1922. In Government Order No. R. 2296-307—L. R. 205-2, dated the 20th November 1922, the practice of grasping for a nominal price, the *amarayi* was ordered to be discontinued and the *Amildars* were directed to put the *amarayi* sales in the villages strictly according to rules and keep proper record of such sales.

3. The inconvenience of the present system was represented to the Dewan in his letter to the Kolar District in August 1922 and the revival of the leasing system was urged in the Representative Assembly of October 1922 and October 1923.

4. The Deputy Commissioner of Kolar urges that it will be very prejudicial to interests of the raiyats to dispose of "Honge leaves" on a strictly commercial basis, that it is necessary to continue the practice of leasing the trees except where villagers do not want them, in which case they may be sold by auction. The Revenue Commissioner supports the recommendation of the Deputy Commissioner, and recommends that the *seigniorage* may be raised from Rs. 1-12-0 to Rs. 2-8-0 per 100 trees in view of the changed conditions.

5. Government observe that there is no uniform practice obtaining at present in matter of letting the usufruct of honge trees in Government lands. Government directed to accept the Revenue Commissioner's recommendation and direct that hereafter the usufruct of honge trees on Government lands outside State and Village *stabs* be reserved to the resident raiyats of the villages concerned on payment of Rs. 2-8-0 per 100 trees and sold by auction when the villagers do not avail themselves of a concession.

Y. ANANTURAMAN, *Joint Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.*

ANNEXURE.

For C. No. 119—22-23, dated 14th—17th December 1923, from the Revenue Commissioner in Mysore, to the Secretary to the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore, Revenue Department.

Adverting to subject No. 23 on page 20 of the Tour Notes of the Dewan relating to Kolar, Tumkur and Chitaldrug Districts re giving honge leaves, I have the honor to forward herewith copy of letter No. H. C. 272-23-24, dated 17th October 1923, from the Deputy Commissioner, Kolar, stating that no uniform practice obtains in District with regard to disposal of honge leaves and that it is very desirable to continue the practice of leasing out the "Honge leaves" except where the villagers do not want them in which case they may be sold by public auction and to state as follows:—

2. As per several Government Orders ending with No. R. 972-81—L. R. 7-2, dated 15th July 1918, "Honge leaves and seeds" on Government unenclosed lands were being leased out at Rs. 1-12-0 per hundred trees or at slightly lower rates at the discretion of the Deputy Commissioners where necessary. In Government Order No. I. C. 4432-91—Rt. 230-25-19, dated 17th February 1922 "Honge seeds and leaves" were ordered to be included as one of the items of Village *stabs* and in G. O. No. R. 2276-307—L. R. 205-22-2, dated the 20th November 1922, it has been laid down that all *amarayi* should be sold by auction. Hence it may be inferred that "Honge seeds and leaves" should also be sold by auction if leased out as hitherto. The Deputy Commissioner of Kolar is of opinion that it would be very prejudicial to the interests of the ryots to dispose of "Honge leaves" on a strict commercial basis as it is very valuable to them and that it is

not want them in which case they may be sold by public auction. In this connection I may state that honge trees used to be stripped quite bare and even large branches were being lopped off by outside contractors who used to be the successful bidders at the auction sales held by the Forest Department. In the interests therefore of the raiyat population as well as of the trees, it is better to lease the produce to the raiyat alone and not to include them to the general Amarayi sales and I recommend that as suggested by the Deputy Commissioner, the system of leasing out the produce may be permanent, subject however to the condition that whenever the villagers do not require the produce of these trees for their own use, such produce should invariably be sold by public auction.

3. With regard to the question of seigniorage for leasing out the produce of honge trees, it has already been pointed out above that an amount of Rs. 1-12-0 per 100 trees was being levied generally. The Deputy Commissioners were of course empowered to enhance the rate slightly wherever necessary (*vide* Government Order No. R. 2165-74—L II. 419-10-4, dated 18th October 1912), though this seems not to have been done generally in practice. The Deputy Commissioner of Kolar has separately suggested, in his letter No. H. C. 9-22-23, dated 6th July 1922, that the rate may be raised to Rs. 3 for 100 trees on the ground that the existing rate was fixed several years ago when the economic conditions were quite different from what they are now, that on account of the growth of demand consequent on the increased use made of it for manure purposes, the produce of the trees commands a higher value at present and that as the raiyat is reaping more profit it is but just that he should share it with Government. On this suggestion of the Deputy Commissioner, the opinion of the other Deputy Commissioners was called for and all the Deputy Commissioners except those of Shimoga and Chitaldrug have so far furnished their opinion. Their letters are herewith forwarded in original for kind reference and return. I will be seen therefrom that the majority of the Deputy Commissioners are in favour of enhancing the rate, though the opinions vary with regard to the exact amount to be fixed. The Kolar Deputy Commissioner in his present communication has recommended the rate of Rs. 1-8-0 per 100 trees. The Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore has also given the same rate whereas other Deputy Commissioners have suggested higher rates. Personally I agree with Deputy Commissioners of Kolar and Bangalore in fixing the seigniorage at Rs. 2-8-0 per 100 honge trees. I request that order of Government may kindly be obtained in the matter at a very early date.

4. The question of waiving Amarayi altogether during years of scarcity is a separate one and will be separately dealt with.

ENCLOSURE
Letter No. H. C. 272-23-24, dated 17th October 1923, from the Deputy Commissioner, Kolar District, to the Revenue Commissioner in Mysore, Bangalore.

With reference to subject No. 23 on page 20 of the Dewan's Tour Notes, regarding the giving of honge leaves, I have the honour to state that a uniform practice does not obtain in this district with regard to the disposal of honge leaves. This appears to be the result of the way in which the Government Order No. I. C. 448-91—Pt. 230-20-19, dated 17th February 1922, has been understood by some officers. As honge leaves form the chief item of manure for wet lands in this district and they are very much in demand here, disputes not frequently arise in this connection and some representations have also reached me regarding the difference in practice at different localities.

2. As early as 1892, (*vide* Government Order No. 747—R. 113-92, dated 1st July 1892), it came to be recognised that the disposal of honge leaves deserved special treatment and it was consequently ordered that they should be leased out in this district at Rs. 1-12-0 per 100 trees by proportionate allotment among wet land holders (instead of being sold with village amarayi). In 1909, this rule was extended

It was therefore directed (*vide* Government Order No. R. 2165-74—L. R. 419-10-4, dated 18th October 1912), that the two items should be leased out to one and the same person. This system has continued hitherto. But the recent Government Order No. I. C. 4482-91—Fr. 230-20-19, dated 17th February 1922, approving of the inclusion of honge leaves and seeds in village amarayi as a temporary measure has in some quarters been held to supersede the previous Government Orders on the subject of the disposal of honge leaves and seeds and to justify their sale in public auction as is the practice in the case of the other items of village amarayi. The reply of Government on subject No. 56 of the Mysore Representative Assembly Session of October 1922, appears to uphold this view. But it would be very prejudicial to the interests of the raiyats to dispose of honge leaves on a strict commercial basis as it is very valuable to the raiyat and it is necessary to continue the practice of leasing them out as usual except where the villagers do not want them in which case they may be sold in public auction. I request therefore that Government may be requested to pass a definite ruling accordingly in the matter.

3. I have proposed in my letter No. D. (2) Dis. 332—22-23, dated 6th November 1922, (copy enclosed for ready reference) that the rate of seigniorage for honge leaves and seeds may be enhanced from Rs. 1-12-0 to Rs. 3 per 100 trees. But on further consideration, I think it may be fixed a little lower, namely, at Rs. 2-8-0 per 100 trees. The rate of Rs. 1-12-0 was fixed long ago and in spite of the discretion allowed in the Government Order of the 18th October 1912 of enhancing the rate so as to realise the revenue from seeds also, the rate has remained uniform.

4. In this connection, I would again urge the necessity of making the present arrangement of the Revenue Department disposing of honge leaves and seeds a permanent one.

Fuel in Inam Lands.

READ—

Government Order No. R. 2201-9—Fr. 183-11-1, dated 18th October 1912, authorising Amildars to issue licenses for the removal of firewood from lands in Inam villages.

2. Subject No. 33 of the Representative Assembly Proceedings of October 1923, representing that the restriction imposed as above on the removal of fuel from Inam lands may be removed and that the Inamdars themselves may be authorised to issue such licenses.

3. Letter No. 616, dated 26th December 1923, from the Conservator of Forests in the matter.

ORDER No. I. C. 6846-55—Fr. 188-23-4, DATED 3RD MAY 1924.

Government do not consider it desirable to alter the existing practice and to authorise Inamdars to issue their own passes.

2. With a view however to avoid delay in the issue of the licenses by the Amildars, Government direct that applications for such licenses should be invariably disposed of by the Amildars and the result communicated to the Inamdars within a month from the date of receipt of the application.

K. V. ANANTARAMAN,
Offg. Secy. to Govt., Rev. Dept.